

AMY C. EVANS :: ARTIST'S STATEMENT :: SACRED SPACES

"There is an honesty in the color and improvisational architecture of [vernacular buildings]...Like magpie nests, [they] are created from, and decorated by, the occasional bits and pieces of colorful flotsam found in the environment."

-Arie A. Galles, *In Celebration of Improvisational Architecture: Beverly Buchanan*

Tchula is a town in the Mississippi Delta that fewer than 2,000 people call home. Along US Rout 49 E—also known as Martin Luther King Drive, once you're close to the center of things—is a sprawling, pieced-together purple building with no windows and no sign. I drive past it on my trips to and from Greenwood, and I've always admired its bold beauty, the patchwork of shapes and materials held together by who-knows-how-many coats of a particular shade of purple paint.

Working as a teaching artist with some of Houston's art-integration nonprofits, my many residencies take me into communities that have not yet totally succumbed to the steady pace of gentrification that the rest of the city is experiencing. It is in these neighborhoods that I began noticing evidence of the same spirit of vernacular architecture that dots the rural Delta landscape: homes and businesses added to or built with whatever might be on hand, decorated to attract new customers or simply announcing their existence in an otherwise monochromatic urban landscape. Sometimes there are surprising juxtapositions that happen on certain street corners around the city, unique expressions of shape, color, and pattern in an unplanned visual relationship with each other. I began documenting these places in photographs, amassing a collection of images that I used to inspire this body of work. For me, these paintings are historical documents, records of a fading tradition of vernacular architecture in the nation's fourth-largest city. They are sacred spaces hiding in our temporal present.

AMY C. EVANS

Houston, TX

2018

EXHIBITED

2018

Sacred Spaces: Houston Landscapes by Amy C. Evans & Marie Valdez - Koelsch Gallery - Houston, TX

44 Texas Artists - Louise Hopkins Underwood Center for the Arts (LHUCA) - Lubbock, TX

Sacred Spaces: Houston Landscapes by Amy C. Evans & Marie Valdez - San Jacinto College South - Houston, TX